

To the Bridport Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I now present you my Annual Report for the year 1911.

Area of District (Land and Inland Water), 32,164 Acres.

Population (1911), 6,731.

Births registered, 129, equal to a rate of 19·1 per 1,000.

Deaths registered, 68, equal to a rate of 10·1 per 1,000.

Average age at death, 57·2 per 1,000.

Infant mortality, 62·01 per 1,000.

ZYNOTIC RATE.

(To include the seven principal zymotics only).

One death was registered from Diphtheria, but it took place at the Urban District Isolation Hospital, which is situated just within the Rural District, and it had been removed from the Borough of Bridport, so under the head of transferable deaths it does not belong to your district. Excluding this, the only other death registered was one of Whooping Cough at Abbots Wootton.

The Notification of Births Act, 1809, has not been adopted in the district, but my knowledge of the district has enabled me to take due measures with the object of reducing the Infantile Mortality.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE NOTIFICATION.

17 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, as under:

Diphtheria, 3; Scarlet Fever, 9; Erysipelas, 3; Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908), 2.

As regards the Diphtheria cases, all occurred at Pymore Terrace, Allington. There was no proper means for isolation or treatment, and they were at once, on notification, removed to your Isolation Hospital. Regarding the Scarlet Fever Cases, one occurred at Burton Bradstock, an adult; it was clearly proved to be imported; it was removed to the Isolation Hospital. Of six at Swyre, four were removed to the Isolation Hospital, but two, which were notified as Scarlet Fever? or German Measles, in the same house, were treated at home, but the usual means for isolation and disinfection, as required, were carried out. One Bradpole case was treated at the Isolation Hospital, and one which occurred at Little Wych Convalescent House, and was clearly proved to be imported, was also at once, on notification, removed to your Isolation Hospital.

The Erysipelas cases were Idiopathic, and require no comment.

Under the Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908, Form B, which only applies to parish cases, two notifications were received. There is no Hospital accommodation for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis for advanced or earlier cases of the disease, anywhere near the district. As I remarked last year, there is dire necessity for a Consumption Sanatorium, that could be available for all parts of the County, for those who can pay nothing or little. In parts of my district it is impossible to separate the patient from the rest of the family, and even in cases they have to sleep in the same bedroom, which is an immediate danger to the rest of the family and neighbours.

SCHOOLS.

The Water Supply is good and sufficient. The Medical Inspection of the Children in the Elementary Schools is undertaken by the School Medical Officer of the Dorset County Council. There was Closure of the following Schools during the year—For Scarlet Fever, Swyre, from September 27th, for two months. For Measles, Loders, from November 24th to December 4th. For Diphtheria, Bradpole-Pymore School, from October 23rd to November 4th. For Measles, Burton Bradstock Schools, from November 24th, for a month.

WATER SUPPLY.

An Analysis of Water was twice taken at Fern Hill Lane, Charmouth, and proved unsatisfactory, but a suitable supply was obtained from the Charmouth main, close by. Besides this investigations have been taken in other places, and your Sanitary Inspector has drawn out and submitted to you a list of the Water Supply for every house in your district. At Buckett's Farm, as it was impossible to obtain any good water, as I suggested, rain water has been utilised. It still seems impossible to get a good supply of drinking water at New House Farm, close by. Charmouth has now an adequate supply of water for drinking and all other purposes. The Annual Analysis of the Water from the Charmouth and Chideock supplies proved them, as usual, excellent for dietetic use.



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SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The condition of Sewers and House Drains is reported by myself and your Inspector at your Meetings.

Excrement is disposed of by means of Water Closets, Earth Closets and Privies.

The removal and disposal of House Refuse is carried out by the occupiers as often as required.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Eleven Cases were admitted during the year—one from the Bridport Union, the others from the Rural District. Everything is in excellent order.

MEANS FOR DISINFECTION.

Bedding-Clothes, etc., are conveyed to the Disinfecting Oven at the Isolation Hospital. The Disinfection of Houses, Rooms, and Premises is carried out under the direct supervision of your Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING-CLASS

is, I believe, similar to other Rural Districts in the County. Improvements have been made in the condition of some of the Cottages, and new Cottages for the Working-Classes are in course of construction at Symondsbury, Bradpole, and other parts of the district. No prosecution for overcrowding has taken place. There are no Registered Common Lodging-Houses.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1908.

The supervision over erection of new houses is under the administration of your Council, and house accommodation, especially for the working classes, its adequacy and fitness for Habitation; sufficiency of open space and cleanliness of surroundings is, after inspection, reported to you by myself and your Inspector at your monthly meetings.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, and MILKSHOPS.

Cows are not wholly housed in the district, and are in open fields for parts of the day, and wholly in the summer time. The dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops—their administration comes under your bye-laws, and their condition is reported to you by myself and the Inspector when required. There has been nothing to complain of. No tuberculosis in milk has come to my notice, and I have had no complaint as to the character or wholesomeness of the milk produced or imported.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are nine slaughter-houses scattered about the district. They have all been several times inspected, and were found to be kept in a cleanly manner. No carcases or parts of carcases have been condemned for tuberculosis. I have not been called upon to examine any animal or article of diet that was diseased, unwholesome or unfit for the food of man.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

The factories, on inspection, were found, as far as the administration is in the hands of the Council, to be in every way satisfactory.

WORKSHOPS AND WORK PLACES.

A register is kept. They were all in a satisfactory state, and I found nothing to complain of. The bakehouses were all inspected, and their sanitary condition found satisfactory. There are no underground ones.

There are no offensive processes of trade carried on in the district.

IMPORTED LABOUR.

There is no imported labour for hops and fruit picking or potato digging.

MIDWIVES' ACT.

The direct administration of the Act ceased to be under the Council on September the 1st, when it was taken over by the County Medical Officer of Health. Prior to that in carrying out the duties required by the Act, I found it so far satisfactory.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

has brought to my notice all matters requiring my intervention, and when required has given me assistance in making systematic inspections.

Tabular statements of the sickness and mortality for the district are given.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. E. HAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bridport, February 28th, 1912.

